

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
Terry Church's office

Members Present: Heidi Raedel Magaro, Mark Wheeler, Patrick O'Connor, Megan Card, Jim Laukkonen, Trevor Zandell, Victoria Byerly, Terry Church, Laura Murphy (by phone)
Members Absent: Bill Pope, Lenny Lucenko, Jackson Maynard
Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg. Judge Brett Buckley, Marie Docter, and Jonathan Sprouffske attended the first half of the meeting as invited guests.

1. **Call to order** 5:40 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2019 Board Meeting** Victoria moved to approve, seconded by Megan. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 **New Courthouse (Judge Buckley)** – Judge Buckley shared information about the new courthouse that he feels will greatly serve the community as the current courthouse is falling apart. The County is planning the new courthouse will be on the August ballot to voters. The County will put out information to the public that it will be on the ballot, but the Commissioners are not allowed to have a position on the matter. The new courthouse would cost about \$250 million and would open in October 2023 if it passes. Judge Buckley said we have to do more than just the County government putting out information to the public. He said there needs to be an aggressive campaign and that the TCBA would be the perfect group to take the lead and form the campaign. There are lots of groups in the community who also want to help and donate money. He said judges can advocate for the project but cannot be involved in fundraising. If you need a speaker to come and talk to a group in the community, the judges created a speakers bureau and would be happy to come and speak. Judge Buckley has spoken to many different groups in the community already and will continue to do so.
Questions by board members for Judge Buckley:
 1. Mark asked if the timeline is negotiable since August is so soon? Judge Buckley said there is a possibility for a special election in February 2020, but the preferred time is August to be on the ballot.
 2. Trevor asked why would the November ballot not work? Judge Buckley said that is the general ballot and there are too many other initiatives on the ballot in November.
 3. Megan asked how much would the additional property taxes be for tax payers? The county is working on the data right now. Judge Buckley can get the data within a week.
 4. Mark asked if the Yes campaign can ask Judge Buckley for contact information for interested parties that are interested in helping on the campaign. Judge Buckley said yes.
 5. Jim asked about the workload of the District and Superior Court judges currently. Judge Buckley said the county does not have the money to hire more judges. The new courthouse will be built big enough to grow into it over the next 100 years and can be rented out to other organizations in the community to provide services to the community.
 6. Laura asked if Judge Buckley has reached out to the organizations like the Dispute Resolution Center, Catholic Community Center, etc? Judge Buckley said he has spoken to many different groups and will continue to reach out to groups.Jonathan Sprouffske shared that the Citizens Advocacy Committee did not get off to a good start and is struggling with finding a leader for that group.
Marie Docter shared that Rick Thomas was at the Trial Lawyers Association lunch last week

and that he would be willing to provide information to the campaign group. Rick Thomas is putting together a phone survey to find out what the public needs to know in order for this to pass.

After Judge Buckley left, a discussion took place. The TCBA will facilitate the formation of a Yes on a campaign committee. Trevor moved to approve, seconded by Jim. The motion carried without objections. Trevor will work on an email and will send it to the TCBA who will then send it to the TCBA listserv.

- 3.2 Welcome and Introduction of Victoria as our new Board Member (Mark) - Mark welcomed Victoria to the Board. Heather will email her the TCBA bylaws.
- 3.3 Tacoma Rainiers event & flyer (Heather & Trevor) – Heather asked how much the tickets will cost: \$56 for adults and \$33 for kids 12 and under. Heather will work with Chris at the Tacoma Rainiers to finalize the flyer and Heather will email it to the members.
- 3.4 Pizza Klatch Request (Mark) – Mark received an email from Michael Dennis Board who is the Vice-President of Pizza Klatch. Pizza Klatch is a support group for LGBTQ at high schools where students can go to feel safe and supported. Mark will respond to him asking for more information.
- 3.5 Covering for Heather at the March 29 CLE (Heather) – Victoria offered to help or her assistant will help. Megan said she would be a back-up if needed. Heather will contact Victoria in the next week.
- 3.6 Chris Meserve retiring from BOG (Laura) – Laura shared that Chris Meserve is retiring from the BOG and thought it would be nice to present her with a Certificate of Appreciation at the December Holiday lunch. Heather will prepare a certificate for December.
- 3.7 Results of the Joint TCBA/GLBA/WSBA meeting, and next steps (Mark) – Mark thought the meeting was shockingly honest. A discussion took place about the meeting that the TCBA leadership team attended with the BOG. Mark will reach out to Chris Meserve to see if she can provide an informational update to be sent to the TCBA members.
- 3.8 Courthouse security inquiry from Snohomish County Bar (Mark) - Mark received an email from the Vice President of the Snohomish County Courthouse regarding security at the courthouse. Mark asked if Thurston County allows attorneys to enter with a special badge. If not, does the sheriff's department have a specific position on this? The board did not know. Marie shared that the Pierce County Courthouse does allow attorneys through with a special court badge and the program is through the Pierce County Bar Association. Spokane County Courthouse does this as well.
- 3.9 President's Plaque (new design options) (Heather) – A discussion took place regarding the 3 options for the President's plaque. Megan moved to approve the Rosewood plaque option, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections.

4. **Old Business**

- 4.1 Rules Committee update (Laura) - Rule amendments are due on March 15, 2019. There is a Local Rule Committee meeting on March 19, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Public comment will be on May 17, 2019.
- 4.2 2019 Law Day update (Terry) – The preliminary round is on April 11, 2019 at the Thurston County Courthouse. The finals are on April 30, 2019 the West Olympia Rotary meeting. Terry is working on finding judges. Terry is going to Olympia High School to talk to the debate class. Heidi and Patrick may do the same at other local high schools. Laura knows someone at Thurston Talk who is interested in doing a write up on the Law Day Speech Contest. She will give them Terry's name.
- 4.3 Judicial Evaluation Survey update (Trevor) – The survey was emailed to the members on March 1, 2019. The judges appreciated the survey being run by them first for suggestions and Judge Wilcox thanked the Board for working together. Heather will send out a reminder to the members.
- 4.4 Annual Meeting update & agenda (Trevor & Heidi & Heather) – A discussion took place

about the budget for the meeting. The board agreed to not have a dance floor and no music after the trivia. The price for members to attend the event should stay between \$40 - \$45. Heather will finalize the flyer and email it to the board members for their approval so she can email it to the members in the next week.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Jim Laukkonen) – February 2019 Financial Report - Megan moved to approve, seconded by Victoria. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Laura Murphy) - The February CLE was with Judge Thomas McPhee on Mediation. The March CLE is on March 29, 2019 will be on the topic Active Shooter and keeping your business alive presented by Attorney Anne Wilson and Thurston County Sheriff David Claridge. The April CLE will be presented by Francis Schopick.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Nothing new to report. The next meeting will be on June 12, 2019.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Megan, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Jackson) – Terry has a Personal Injury CLE tomorrow.
 - 7.3 Newsletter (Heather) – The March Legal Brief was mailed to members on Monday, March 11th. The next Legal Brief is in May with ads/articles due early May.
 - 7.4 New Courthouse (Marie Doctor) - The next official meeting is not until March 20th; but we had Rick Thomas, the project manager at a luncheon I was at yesterday. The big push now is to find individuals willing to head up the campaign. Once the issue becomes a ballot measure, county employees will not be able to spend time or funds on the issue, and if it does not pass, the county will be in deep water because the costs of maintaining the buildings as is, will take funds away from other necessary county services. There is a group working on a survey to discover what the public needs to know to help make the ballot measure pass or should I say – help voters make a more informed decision. For clarification, the ballot measure is a funding measure through a levy lid lift. If it does pass the goal is to have the building completed and operational sometime in 2024. From an accounting perspective, with the proposed ballot funding measure there will be sufficient funds to do the project and design a structure (or campus of structures) that will last a generation (up to 75 years). I will be at the next board meeting. Judge Buckley will be there as well so between the two of us, we should be able to address any questions.
8. **Section Reports**
 - 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had a very productive and information-filled meeting. We discussed the long-awaited calendar changes coming to family and juvenile court. The Board of Judges approved the proposed changes that were circulated for comment. Essentially, the court's primary goal is to become more "trauma-informed" for all of the families at Family and Juvenile Court. A huge part of this vision of being more trauma-informed is cutting down on the wait times for the families at court. Trial days and times will be changing, and family law calendars are now going to have "time specific calendaring," which means we will have to designate a specific time for a hearing (9, 10, 11, etc.), instead of just calendaring a hearing generally on the 9:00 AM docket. We are also working on modifying/changing our pretrial hearing procedure. This has been a work in progress, and our work group meets for the 3rd time at the end of this month. We are going to implement a Case Scheduling Order to help limit court appearances, and ensure parties and attorneys are ready for trial in advance of a trial date. We discussed the upcoming elections at

the WSBA, and some proposed Senate Bills—one to repeal the legislation requiring a mandatory bar association and one that will change the application of the Relocation Statute to shared/equal parenting plans. We spent the majority of the time discussing the proposed calendar changes, and the suggested calendar caps for the new calendars.

8.2 Pro Bono (Terry Church) – May 7th is the TCVLS breakfast. The keynote speaker is Bob Ferguson.

8.3 Young Lawyers (Ingrid Zerpa) - February event: Due to the snow storm, I had to cancel the *YL Beer and Live Music* event because I was stuck at home :(March lunch: The lunch took place on Wednesday, March 6th at noon at The Westside Tavern. Not many people show up. It may be due to the cold weather.

I have two events coming up this month of March. Check it out: **Beer and Live Music: Wednesday, March 20th at 6:00 p.m. at Matchless Brewing**, 8036 River Dr SE #208, Tumwater, WA 98501. **Live Music w/ Monk Flower:** Come chill out to the cool sounds of Olympia's MonkFlower. Music starts at 6:30 p.m. Kids welcome until 7(ish). Bring your puppy! Matchless is a puppy-friendly establishment.

GO SOUNDERS! Saturday, March 30th at 6:30 p.m. at Three Magnets Brewing, 600 Franklin St SE #105, Olympia, WA 98501. **Let's meet on the back room** (if the back room is closed, I will be on the main dining room area). **About the game:** *Vancouver Whitecaps FC vs. Seattle Sounders FC. Game starts at 7:00 p.m. Limited spots. I encourage you to go early or you will not find a seat.*

I am organizing the swearing in ceremony. I already reserved the big courtroom at main campus for April 18th at 4:30 p.m. Judge Hirsch agreed to conduct the ceremony. I got Mike DeWitt to donate some money so that I can buy flowers and print out programs for the event. I reached out to Meredith from the Government Bar Association and asked if her organization is willing to sponsor the happy hour portion of the event but I have not heard back from her yet. If she does not get back to me, I will ask TCVLS. I believe TCVLS donated some money last year.

8.4 Criminal Law (Larry Jefferson & Wayne Graham) - I am presently working on a Drug Court/Mental Health Court CLE to occur within the next couple of months. Drug Court has agreed to participate.

8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – A social event took place. Heather is working on organizing a meeting.

9. Additions to agenda

9.1 Mark is interested in forming a section on Diversity and Inclusion. He is going to meet with Mike Martinez to discuss this more.

10. Announcements

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** Trevor Zandell's office on April 10, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

12. **Adjourn** 8:13 p.m.